Collection of road tax on National Highways

1905. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies engaged in the collection of road tax on the National Highways;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints from the local people against the road tax being collected by these agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the manner in which Government is exercising control over the functioning of the agencies engaged in the collection of road tax;

(e) the amount of revenue earned by Government last year through the collection of road tax; and

(f) where was this revenue utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (f) The Central Government is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. The road tax is levied and collected by the State Governments/Union Territories who are responsible for exercising control over the functioning of the agencies engaged in the collection of road tax.

Widening of NHs to four-lane in Rajasthan

1906. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals on account of heavy traffic for widening of National Highways to four-lane stretches in the State of Rajasthan are pending with the Government for clearance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is not sanctioning the strengthening works under annual plan on the stretches, which have been identified under NHDP during the period of sanctioning the works by NHAI; and

(c) if so, the details of Government plans to improve the poor maintenance of roads in various parts of Rajasthan during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 937 km length of National Highways in the State of Rajasthan have been identified for upgradation to 4/6 lane under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. Upgradation works in 186 km length are under implementation for which maintenance works are being carried out by the concessionaire to keep the road in traffic worthy condition. In the balance 751 km length where preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is either completed or in progress are being maintained in traffic worthy condition under Improvement of Riding Quality/Periodical Renewal (PR) work in phases depending upon condition of roads, *inter-se* priority of works and availability of funds. Out of 751 km length, 212 km length of National Highways have been taken up for periodical renewal during the current year 2007-08.